GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3910
ANSWERED ON:18.02.2014
HARASSMENT OF ETHNIC GROUPS
Ajmal Shri Badruddin

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware about the harassment of some ethnic groups by the Police in the process of identification of foreigners in the State of Assam;

(b) if so, whether these people are forcefully tagged as `D` (doubtful) Voters in the voters` list and are being sent to the detention camps in an inhuman manner as part of the process of identification and deportation of foreigners;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government will settle the issue of `D` Voters permanently with specific measures by the Election Commission before the next General Election; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN)

(a): Thirty six (36) Foreigner Tribunals have been set up in Assam to detection of illegal migrants. There is no such report that some ethnic groups are harassed by Police in the process of identification of foreigners in the State of Assam. Due Process of law has been followed in the process of identification of foreigners by the Police in the State of Assam.

(b) to (e): As per report, during intensive revision of Electoral Rolls in 1997, objections and doubts were raised before the Electoral Authorities. Registration officers in relation to 17,99,857 persons whose names had already found place in the draft Electoral Rolls. Verification was caused In respect of all these persons. After verification the claims of 13,41,994 persons were accepted as being citizens of India and further proceedings in their cases dropped. Names of 1,84,619 persons were deleted under rule 21 A of Registration of Elector Rule, 1960 under suo-moto power of electoral Registration Officers after following due procedure for reasons of being dead or shifted.

The names of those persons whose citizenship was found in doubt were referred by the electoral Registration Officers concerned to the competent authority (Police) for further reference to the Tribunals. In case of those persons/electors whose citizenship are held to be not Indian by the Tribunals, the names of such persons/electors are deleted from the electoral rolls. In order to ensure speedier disposal of cases pending in Foreigners Tribunals, in April, 2012, Foreigners (Tribunals) Order, 1964 has been amended which envisages that the cases shall be disposed of by the Tribunals within 60 days from the reference received from the competent authority. Settlement of 'D' Voters is done through a specific judicial process and efforts are on to settle these cases. However, no time limit can be fixed, it being a judicial process.